Guide to the Joseph Andrew Rowe Papers, 1857-1861

California State Library
Sacramento, California

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Access Points
Rowe, Joseph Andrew, 1819-1887
Circus owners--California
Circus--California--San Francisco

Contents
Correspondence, bills and other papers of Rowe and his associates.
Biography

Joseph A. Rowe was born in North Carolina in 1819 and joined a circus company in 1829 as a child performer. In 1837, he became independent, engaging in various circus activities, and touring the east coast and South America. In 1849 he came to San Francisco and gave the first circus entertainment. In 1851, he went to Australia, returning a rich man in 1854. In 1854, he purchased the Rancho Sant Anita near Los Angeles, living there for several years. In 1856, he assembled a new company, the Pioneer Circus; however, a combination of hard times and stiff competition drove the company into bankruptcy in 1857. At this point, a business friend, John Center, purchased the circus and resold it to Rowe at a fair price. In 1860, Rowe again toured Australia, this time unsuccessfully. After 1867, he worked at various jobs, dying in obscurity in San Francisco, November 5, 1887.

Alexander, John
Center, David
Center, James
Center, John
Franklin, H. W.
Malloney, Henry C.
Rowe, John A.
Austin, Nat
Field, Stephen A.
Gillim, Francis
Hancock, Henry
Hutchings, John
Hutchings, Thomas
Johnson, Chas. B.
Johnson, Orrick
Kimbal, M.
Lee, H. C.
Peoples, George
Rhoades, Thos. W.
Stocker, J. T.
Sutton Joseph
Thorne, J. W.

Box 293  Correspondence arranged chronologically